

which have occurred since the first edition are not treated in the same detail and there is little justification given for the taxonomy used in the book.

Despite the missed opportunity to make some significant improvements from the first edition *The Ferns of Britain and Ireland* maintains its place as the best book on ferns in Britain. One hopes that the price and the lack of easy identification aids will not detract from its continuing usefulness.

R. ATKINSON

Anatomie der Hymenomyceten. Eine Einführung in die Cytologie und Plectologie der Krustenpilze, Porlinge, Keulenpilz, Leistlinge, Blätterpilze und Rohrlinge.

H. Cléménçon. Teufen: Flück-Wirth. 1997. xi+966pp. ISBN 3 7150 0040 6. £56.

The Anatomy of Hymenomycetes is a lavishly illustrated book with 842 figures supporting the well-organized dialogue found between the covers. The illustrations are from the author's own laboratory or have been obtained from a wide range of publications, old and new, the source of which many readers will immediately recognize! The figures, which include many high quality electron micrographs, are well chosen and make it easier to come to grips with the characters of the agarics, boletes and their allies, the old Aphyllophorales.

Those mycologists unfamiliar with German can sigh with relief as all the illustrations have legends both in English and in German and there is an extensive English summary (26pp). A very helpful list of contents, also in English, plays a supporting role. However, if one wishes to become more familiar with the terms used in developmental basidiomycetology, then I fear a little polishing up in German will be required.

The book is a pilgrimage through many areas which have not been brought together before (e.g. cytology and lichenized hymenomycetes) and all are cleverly interwoven. The organizational element, plectology, which draws all the topics together, will be a term which will surely be a part of every basidiomycetologist's culture. There are ten chapters with expansive ones dealing with the hymenomycetous hypha (Chapter 2); meiospores, basidia and basidiospores (Chapter 6); basidiomata (Chapter 8) and carpogenesis and primordial development (Chapter 9). In contrast, the chapter on lichenized and algal parasitic hymenomycetes is only 20 pages. The other chapters cover the mycelium (Chapter 3); bulbils, sclerotia and pseudosclerotia (Chapter 4); mitospores (Chapter 5) and cystidia, pseudocystidia and hyphidia (Chapter 7). All the chapters are introduced by a short ten page account of the general biology of the basidiomycetes. Each chapter is logically and clearly divided for ease of reference.

The whole work of nearly 1000 pages is encyclopaedic in its contents and is a mine of information. It will be seen whether in future publications the plethora of

terms defined and discussed therein will be used; although undoubtedly the author is right, my guess is that it will be difficult to shift long and established and often ill-founded tradition.

This book has resurrected a study which has found itself unattractive over the last forty years but it has handsomely been brought up-to-date and copies should be visible and easily accessible in every basidiomycetologist's library. There are a few slips, one in a prominent place (p. xi – *generea*), but these do not detract from the contents. The cover design is very refreshing. As book prices go, it is not expensive for what the reader receives; it is certainly value for money.

R. WATLING

Supplement to Illustrations on the Flora of the Palni Hills, South India.

K. M. Matthew. Madras: Emerald Printing House, Chennai. 1998. xxi + 316pp, 273 b/w plates. ISBN 81 900539 2 2. £20 (hardback).

This volume completes the depiction of the montane flora of the Indian Peninsula which was begun in *Illustrations on the Flora of the Palni Hills, South India* (Matthew, 1996; reviewed by Pendry, 1997), and maintains the same high standards set in that volume. The Supplement includes species omitted from the Illustrations, many aliens and genera such as *Utricularia* and *Eriocaulon* for which it was preferable to include all the species together. The plates are numbered as a continuation of the sequence from the Illustrations with the index covering both volumes.

With this part of the project complete the team is now returning to the flora of the lowlands, and aims to redraw more than 1900 plates from the *Flora of the Tamilnadu Carnatic* (Matthew 1982, 1983a, 1983b) while adding a further 600 new plates of aliens and native species missed out of the original version. I applaud their industry and wish them luck.

References

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C. PENDRY
